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Week Ending, May 8, 2005

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WEATHER: It was an extremely cool and dry week across the state with temperatures averaging close to 10 degrees below normal and precipitation amounts less than a quarter of an inch across most of the state. The week featured a large ridge of high pressure associated with cold air from Canada and a large coastal storm which was far enough east to keep most of the state dry, but brought a lot of wind to the state on Saturday. Saturday also featured the highest temperatures across most of the state with temperatures close to seasonable levels. The growing season began across a good portion of the state during the week, but due to the cold air in place across the state, frost occurred on most mornings during the work week with Thursday morning being the coldest. Growing Degree Day accumulations during the week ranged mostly from none to ten. The exceptions were Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and New York City where up to 25 were recorded. For the season, accumulations varied from a low of 20 in Franklinville to a high of 192 in New York City. Departures from normal ranged from 14 below to 42 above.

CROPS: Some areas experienced warmer weather. Other areas endured cool, damp conditions. There were 4.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 80 percent adequate, and 20 percent surplus. Winter wheat was 1 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 70 percent good and 15 percent excellent. Corn planting reached 15 percent complete, equal to last years progress. Potato planting picked up momentum and was 46 percent finished as the week ended, only 1 point behind last year. Oat seeding was 61 percent complete compared with 52 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, overnight temperatures were still cool with soil temperatures in the mid 40s, but daytime temps showed improvement by week's end. Drier weather allowed some to begin planting corn on the better drained soils in Jefferson County. Early plantings occurred and some corn was planted in some parts of St Lawrence County. In Franklin County, weather became warmer with little rain in the forecast. By the end of the week conditions improved in Ontario County for fieldwork to resume. In Cortland County, planting was on schedule now that flood damage and debris was cleared from the fields. Grass and alfalfa hay growth was noted in Cortland County. In Herkimer County, hay growth varied, but was generally held back by the cool weather. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties operators were planting and seeding. Cool temperatures slowed growth significantly in Orange County. Only a few fields have been planted to oats, but corn planting hasn't started yet in Clinton County. Very cold nights in Delaware County left some corn in the bags, however, some went in the ground, too.

FRUIT: Fruit producers in the Lake Ontario region were finishing sweet cherry and peach pruning. Dry weather and warmer temperatures toward the end of the week provided excellent conditions for pruning. Idared and Gingergold apples were at tight cluster in lake sites, but clusters were beginning to show a bit of pink in inland sites. Sweet cherries should be in full bloom in this region soon. In the Lake Erie region grape development was slowed by below average temperatures. Concord bud swell was first observed near the end of April, but further development was suspended due to coolness. Warmer weather should push bud break in all area vineyards. Finger Lakes grapes were in early bud swell to bud burst stages of development. Vineyards on Long Island were in various stages of budbreak, except for Chardonnay grapes which ranged from budbreak to one inch shoots.

VEGETABLES: Drier weather pushed planting progress along but cooler night temperatures slowed growth and development of crops. Planting of vegetables for processing was underway in Western NY. Beets, peas, and carrots were planted. About 50 percent of the processing pea crop in western areas of the state had been planted. First plantings reached the 4-leaf stage of development. Fresh market sweet corn was off to a good start, but heat is needed to move crops along.

LIVESTOCK: Weather conditions last week were a bit drier than previous weeks throughout most of New York. Pastures have thus far seen moderate to good growth, conditions for livestock continue to improve by the week. Pasture conditions were 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 14 percent excellent.

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Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, July 3, 2005

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches)				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season ^{1/}	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season ^{1/}	Dep. from Norm	
<u>Hudson Valley</u>												
Albany	94	54	77	+7	187	1054	+205	3.41	+2.62	9.33	-1.02	
Glens Falls	91	49	73	+6	165	833	+114	0.78	+0.09	11.35	+1.30	
Poughkeepsie	93	54	76	+6	183	1018	+117	1.69	+0.79	12.45	+0.44	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Utica	92	49	75	+7	174	914	+163	0.00	-0.92	9.88	-1.84	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	91	51	74	+6	167	795	+57	0.31	-0.39	12.58	+3.53	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	93	51	74	+9	171	799	+162	0.00	-0.77	5.79	-3.65	
Massena	91	50	74	+7	168	807	+123	0.01	-0.72	8.56	-0.07	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	95	55	77	+9	192	959	+161	0.06	-0.69	8.30	-1.57	
Colden	90	49	73	+8	164	785	+160	0.89	-0.02	10.18	-1.72	
Niagara Falls	95	51	77	+9	193	1007	+194	0.08	-0.63	7.30	-2.49	
Rochester	91	50	74	+7	172	878	+88	0.00	-0.67	7.82	-0.78	
Watertown	92	48	73	+7	162	787	+157	0.29	-0.22	8.19	+0.09	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	94	47	74	+6	168	850	+65	2.02	+1.20	9.57	-0.30	
Geneva	92	51	74	+6	167	895	+132	1.58	+0.79	11.42	+1.51	
Honeoye	92	44	74	+5	168	846	+55	0.58	-0.19	10.84	+1.04	
Ithaca	90	47	73	+7	166	814	+128	1.81	+0.97	11.54	+1.19	
Penn Yan	92	52	75	+7	177	947	+184	0.46	-0.33	9.33	-0.58	
Syracuse	94	51	76	+8	183	1026	+227	0.25	-0.66	8.36	-2.43	
Warsaw	87	48	71	+7	147	717	+141	0.06	-0.85	11.11	-0.40	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Alfred	90	46	73	+8	159	767	+136	1.18	+0.17	10.15	-1.25	
Elmira	92	42	72	+5	159	824	+91	1.06	+0.22	9.91	-0.10	
Franklinville	90	40	70	+7	144	653	+148	1.08	+0.15	9.90	-1.55	
Sinclairville	90	50	73	+8	161	779	+195	0.88	-0.13	9.85	-2.88	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	90	50	73	+6	163	859	+151	1.07	+0.23	8.42	-2.03	
Cobleskill	92	47	73	+8	164	810	+157	1.19	+0.27	8.67	-2.83	
Morrisville	89	50	72	+8	159	758	+145	0.97	+0.07	10.42	-0.83	
Norwich	93	49	74	+8	167	800	+149	1.39	+0.50	12.40	+0.84	
Oneonta	94	56	76	+12	185	890	+294	2.42	+1.47	13.04	+0.66	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	85	59	72	+4	159	786	+33	0.97	+0.22	9.47	-2.22	
New York	92	66	77	+4	193	1257	+96	1.16	+0.29	8.02	-3.55	

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date.

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The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.